Buckhorn
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Surveys

(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

INTERMOUNTAIN FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION
Reed W. Bailey, Director
FOREST SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ogden, Utah

November, 1958

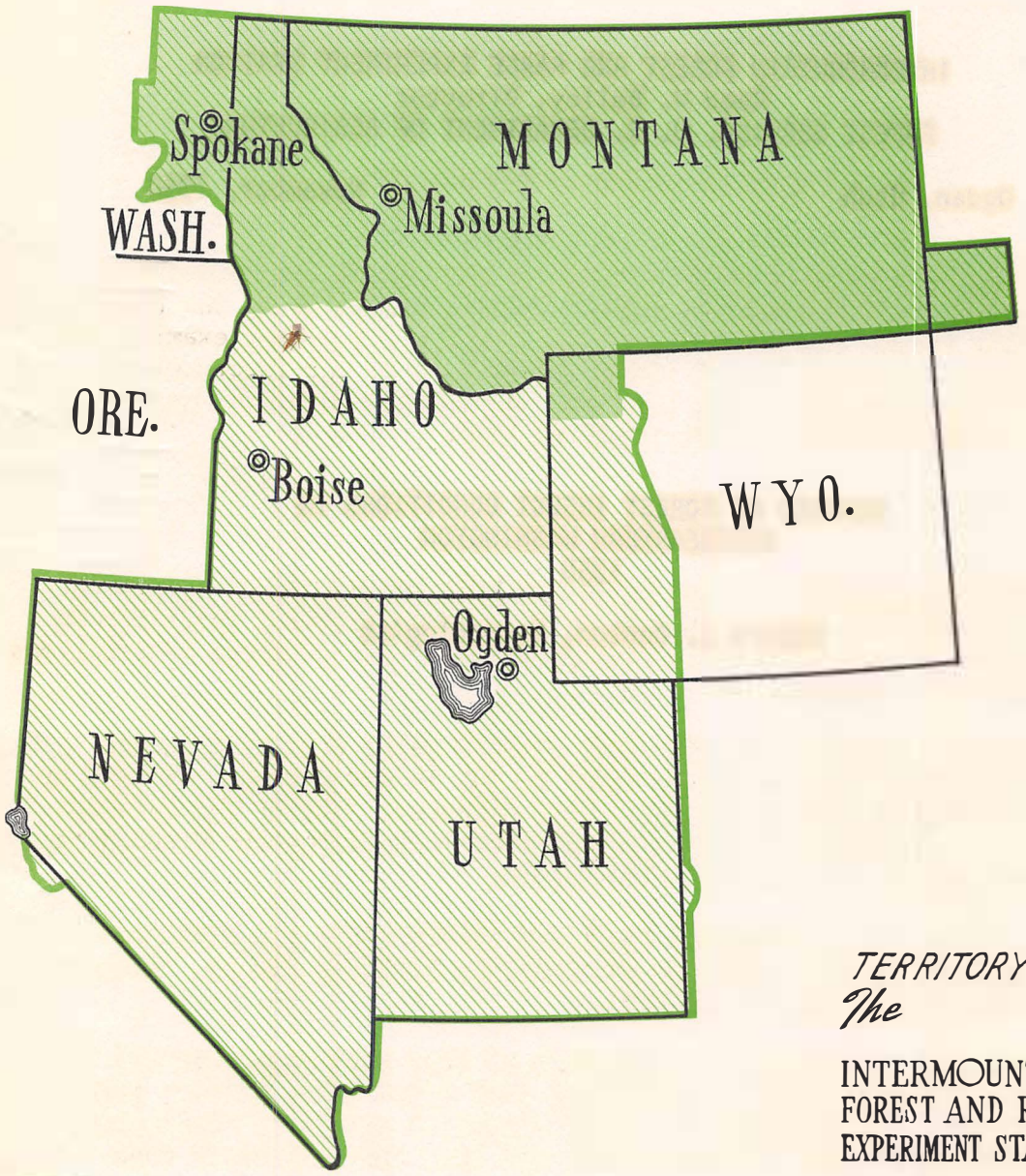
PUBRITZ
WHITESIDE
BUCKHORN W J B
WEAR
CAROLIN
WRIGHT
COULTER
BOYCE
ORR
THOMAS
WILLIAMS
MITCHELL

SUMMARY OF FOREST INSECT CONDITIONS IN NORTHEASTERN WASHINGTON 1958

Robert E. Denton, Entomologist

Prepared By The
Missoula Forest Insect Laboratory
Missoula, Montana

The AREA COVERED BY THIS REPORT



TERRITORY OF.. The INTERMOUNTAIN FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION

The MISSOULA FOREST INSECT LABORATORY is a field unit of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station at Ogden, Utah. The Laboratory conducts forest insect research, surveys forest insect outbreaks, and gives technical advice on cooperative insect control programs in Montana, northwestern South Dakota, northwestern Wyoming, northern Idaho, and northeastern Washington.

The functions are conducted in the remaining station territory by staff entomologists at Ogden, and Boise, Idaho.

SUMMARY OF FOREST INSECT CONDITIONS IN NORTHEASTERN WASHINGTON 1958

Robert E. Denton, Entomologist

Following is a summary of forest insect conditions in northeastern Washington, as determined by aerial surveys conducted by the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station and ground examinations made by the Missoula Forest Insect Laboratory of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. No serious outbreaks were found in this portion of the state in 1958.

BARKBEETLES

Mountain pine beetle.--A few localized infestations occur mainly in lodgepole and ponderosa pine stands at widely scattered locations on or adjacent to the Colville National Forest. All of these infestations are of a minor nature.

Western pine beetle.--For the past several years the western pine beetle has been at a very low level in the Inland Empire. In 1958 no infestations by this beetle have been observed. All of the infestations in ponderosa pine that were checked in northeastern Washington were caused by the mountain pine beetle.

Douglas-fir beetle.--Several localized infestations are scattered through Douglas-fir stands of the Colville National Forest. None of the infestations appears serious.

Engelmann spruce beetle.--An outbreak of this bark beetle on the Colville National Forest lasted from 1952 until 1956, killing practically all of the spruce in the northeastern corner of Washington. No further activitiy of this insect has been observed since then. except in 1957 and 1958!

DEFOLIATORS

Larch casebearer.--A severe infestation of this insect was discovered in 1957 in the vicinity of St. Maries, Idaho. This was the first record of the pest in western larch forests. In 1958 surveys showed that the casebearer is present over 110 square miles in northern Idaho and northeastern Washington. Although visible defoliation is confined to 15,000 acres in the vicinity of St. Maries, small numbers of casebearer were found as far north as Chewelah in Washington.

Larch budmoth.--The larch budmoth outbreak of the past 3 years practically disappeared in the Inland Empire in 1958. Discoloration of larch foliage in northeastern Washington was caused by larch needle cast disease which is currently very prevalent throughout the range of larch. No evidence was found of the budmoth.

Alder flea beetle.--In 1958 a widespread outbreak was observed in northeastern Washington. Heavy defoliation has occurred on alder and willow species; however, the amount of economic damage is negligible.

SUCKING INSECTS

Pineus sp.--In 1958 a survey was begun by the Missoula Laboratory to determine the extent to which an aphid (either P. pinifoliae or P. coloradensis) is associated with crown deterioration of western white pine in the Inland Empire. In recent years there has been a considerable loss of 2- and 3-year-old needles in stands throughout northern Idaho and northeastern Washington. In several instances mortality of trees in the younger age classes has become increasingly apparent.

The survey showed that the above aphid is widely spread throughout the range of white pine. Fairly heavy concentrations of the insect were found in scattered locations in northeastern Washington, including the Colville National Forest. Thus far, however, the role of the aphid in crown deterioration has not been determined.

MISCELLANEOUS FOREST CONDITIONS

Dying subalpine fir.--Throughout the higher elevations in the Inland Empire dead and dying subalpine fir is a common sight. This condition is a continuing one in the headwaters of almost every drainage system. Because subalpine fir is of little commercial importance in this region no detailed investigations have been made into the causes of mortality; however, it is known that Scolytus ventralis takes a considerable annual toll of trees.

Several areas of dead and dying subalpine fir in northeastern Washington were of special interest because of the possibility that Chermes piceae might be active. Although damage caused by a fungus disease on the new growth tips was conspicuous in 1958, no evidence of the balsam woolly aphid was found.

needs a closer check